

Borough of  
otherwise



IV  
Dunheved  
Launceston

ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR  
1963



Health Area Office,  
LAUNCESTON, Cornwall.

W. PATERSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.  
Medical Officer of Health.



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BOROUGH OF DUNHEVED otherwise LAUNCESTON

Members of the Public Health Committee - 1963

The Worshipful the Mayor of Launceston -

Councillor W.R.BENNETT

Alderman C.H.ROBINS (Chairman) (Resigned 21/9/63)

Councillor Mrs.J.C.HICKS (Vice-Chairman) (Chairman from 22/9/63)

Alderman Mrs.K.A.KEAST

Councillor S.G.ADAMS

Councillor G.S.BRAY

Councillor C.J.MOORE (Vice-Chairman from 22/9/63)

Councillor R.G.PARKER

Councillor H.C.GOLDING (Appointed 16/12/63)

- - - - -

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority:

Medical Officer of Health :

W.PATERSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

also holds appointments of

Medical Officer of Health : Launceston Rural District Council  
Bude/Stratton Urban District Council  
Stratton Rural District Council  
Camelford Rural District Council

Assistant County Medical Officer, Area No. 6 - Cornwall County Council  
School Medical Officer - Cornwall County Council

Chief Public Health Inspector :

G.E.GIFFORD, M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspectors :

J.G.HUGHES, M.A.P.H.I.

W.L.JUDD, M.A.P.H.I.

# SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	2182
Population	4510
No. of separate dwellings occupied	1562
Rateable value, 1963	£159,475
Product of ld. Rate	£620

## LIVE BIRTHS

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000 estimated population</u>
Legitimate	60	33	27	13.747
Illegitimate	2	1	1	
<u>STILLBIRTHS</u>	3	1	2	48.38 per 1,000 total births

## DEATHS (all causes)

81	39	42	17.96
----	----	----	-------

Puerperal and post-abortion  
sepsis Nil  
Other Puerperal causes Nil

## INFANT MORTALITY

(Deaths under 1 year, per 1,000 live births)

Nil

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	7	5	12
Deaths from Measles (all ages)		N I L	
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)		N I L	
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)		N I L	

Health Area Office,  
Launceston.

To: The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the  
Borough of Dunheved, otherwise Launceston.

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1963.

Deaths during the year were four more than in 1962. Births were six fewer than in the previous year, the adverse balance of deaths over births continuing. Three stillbirths were recorded, but there were no deaths of infants in the first year of life. Heart disease, vascular lesions of the nervous system, and cancer, in that order, were once more at the head of the list of causes of death.

The estimated mid-year population was unchanged at 4510. The publication of the full county report for the 1961 census shows that the enumerated population was 4524, an increase of 57 over the figure for the 1951 census. It may be recalled that the estimated mid-year population for 1961, the census year, - 4420 - showed a decrease of 250 compared with the estimated figure for the previous year, and gave rise to some concern. The actual census figure is, to some degree, reassuring, and the estimated mid-year population since 1961 is more in line with the enumerated figure.

The incidence of notifiable infectious disease during the year was again low. No cases of diphtheria and no cases of poliomyelitis were recorded. Vaccination against poliomyelitis by the use of the oral vaccine almost entirely replaced vaccination by injection during the year.

In the environmental field, further demolitions were carried out in the Tower Street - Northgate Street area, and tenders were received for the first block of properties to be erected on the site. The St. Leonards Sewage Works were brought into action early in the year.

The Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963, came into operation on 1st October. These Regulations impose upon local authorities the duty of inspecting all meat slaughtered within their areas, previous legislation having been permissive in this respect. They also empower local authorities to charge the operators of slaughterhouses for inspection, in accordance with a limiting scale. Under the Regulations, inspectors are required to mark all meat passed as fit for human consumption, with an identifying stamp, and are obliged to carry out the inspection in accordance with a detailed schedule of examination. Under the previous schedule, which was merely advisory, much was left to the discretion and experience of the inspector.



Although, before these Regulations, a commendably high percentage of the meat slaughtered in the Borough had been inspected by the considerable and unaided efforts of your Public Health Inspector, the new situation imposed by the Regulations made it necessary for the Council, in order to fulfil their obligations, to appoint two additional Public Health Inspectors of considerable experience, who took up duty when the Regulations came into effect. The mandatory nature of the Regulations with regard to the duties of the inspectors does not appear to have been fully understood by the trade, and the work of inspection, exacting and arduous enough in the best of circumstances, was not made any easier in consequence. Nevertheless, inspection in due form was, and continues to be, carried out.

I must express my thanks to Mr. G.E. Gifford, the Council's Chief Public Health Inspector, for his valuable co-operation in all aspects of our work together and in the preparation of this report. Mr. Hughes and Mr. Judd, the Additional Public Health Inspectors, have performed most valuable work. The Council's other departments have continued their willing help. I am grateful to the General Medical Practitioners for their co-operation.

It is a pleasure to acknowledge, once again, the continued interest and encouragement of the members of the Council and, in particular, of the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM PATERSON.

Medical Officer of Health



AREA (in acres) 2,182. This ancient Borough is the natural centre of the agricultural community in North Cornwall and adjoining parts of Devon. It has important markets and some light industry.

POPULATION - The Registrar General has estimated the population for the mid-year 1963 to be 4,510, the same as the previous year. The "natural" increase in the population is the excess of births over deaths. In 1963 there were 19 fewer births than deaths.

DEATHS - The total number of deaths assigned to the Borough for the year was 81 compared with 77 in 1962. The crude death rate, based on the mid-year population was 17.96 compared with 17.07 in the previous year. The following table has been compiled for comparison with previous years :

<u>Years</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Recorded Rate</u>
1959	72	35	37	15.38
1960	73	38	35	15.63
1961	82	41	41	18.55
1962	77	37	40	17.07
1963	81	39	42	17.96

In order to compare the mortality in the District with the mortality for England and Wales, it is necessary to make a correction to allow for the difference in age and sex distribution of the two populations. This is done by applying to the crude death rate of the District an "Area comparability factor" which has been estimated by the Registrar General as 0.64 for this Borough.

The standardised Death Rate, therefore, is 11.494 which may be compared with that of 12.2 (provisional) for England and Wales.

BIRTHS - The number of live births assigned to this Borough was 62 compared with 68 in 1962. The rate per thousand of the population was 13.747. When the Registrar General's Area Comparability Factor for births (1.09) is applied to this figure, the Standardised Birth Rate of 14.98 for this Borough compared with 18.2 (provisional) for England and Wales.

STILLBIRTHS - The number of stillbirths during 1963 was three.

ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS - There were two illegitimate births assigned to the Borough during the year, compared with 5 in 1962.

MATERNAL MORTALITY - No case of death during pregnancy has been recorded.

INFANT MORTALITY - There was no infant death in 1963.

NOTE :

Vital Statistics. It is important that too much weight should not be attached to small variations in these rates from one year to the other, particularly where relatively small populations are involved - attention should rather be paid to the trend of these rates over a period of years.

MORTALITY TABLE

Classified in accordance with 36 headings based on the Abbreviated List of the International Statistical Classifications of Disease, Injuries and Causes of Death, 1955.

	<u>Cause of Death</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	-	-
2.	Tuberculosis, other	-	-	-
3.	Syphilitic disease	-	-	-
4.	Diphtheria	-	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough	-	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infection	-	-	-
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
8.	Measles	-	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	-	-	-
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	2	1	3
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	3	3
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	-	-
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	5	1	6
15.	Leukaemia, aleukemia	-	-	-
16.	Diabetes	-	-	-
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	9	9	18
18.	Coronary disease, angina	10	9	19
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	1	5	6
20.	Other heart disease	2	3	5
21.	Other circulatory disease	3	2	5
22.	Influenza	-	-	-
23.	Pneumonia	1	5	6
24.	Bronchitis	-	-	-
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	-	-	-
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	1	2
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-	-
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	-	-	-
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-	-
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations	-	-	-
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	3	2	5
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	2	-	2
34.	All other accidents	-	-	-
35.	Suicide	-	1	1
36.	Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-
		39	42	81

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

### General Medical Services

General medical services under Part IV of the National Health Service Act, 1946, are provided by medical practitioners resident in the district and in adjoining districts, all of whom undertake maternity medical services.

### County Council Services.

- I Health Department : The County Council is the local health authority for the purposes of Part III of the National Health Service Act, 1946 and provides the following services in the district :-
- (a) Midwifery and Home Nursing. Nurse-midwives are provided to attend general nursing and midwifery cases in the home.
  - (b) Health Visiting. The nurse midwives act also as health visitors and, with special training in the care of the mother and young child, are available to give advice on health matters in the home or at the clinic. They act also as school nurses.
  - (c) Child Welfare Centre. A Child Welfare Clinic is held at the Health Clinic, Launceston, three times each month.
  - (d) Dental Clinic. Priority dental treatment for expectant and nursing mothers and pre-school children is available at the Dental Clinic at the Health Clinic, Launceston.
  - (e) Vaccination and Immunisation. Facilities for vaccination against smallpox and immunisation against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus are provided at the Child Welfare Clinic or by the supply of materials to the family doctor. Regular sessions are held for poliomyelitis vaccination.
  - (f) Home Help Service. Home helps are employed to provide domestic help for households in certain circumstances, a charge being made for this service according to the means of the person concerned.
  - (g) Ambulance Service. A service of ambulances for the conveyance of sick, accident and emergency cases is provided. For sitting cases, utilising sitting case vehicles are used. When appropriate, some such cases are carried by the Hospital Car Service, a voluntary organisation. Day-to-day administration of the service is carried out from Ambulance Control, Bodmin.



- (h) Prevention of Illness, Care and After-care. A full-time tuberculosis health visitor is provided for the care and after-care of tuberculous persons. District nurses are available to assist in the treatment of such persons when required by the Chest Physician or family doctor. Certain special investigations are carried out in other types of illness by district health visitors, and health education is carried out by the County's medical and nursing staff.
- (j) Mental Health. The County Council has certain responsibilities in connection with the ascertainment of mental ill-health and mental deficiency, with the provision of statutory supervision, etc. for mental defectives living in the community, and with the provision of after-care following treatment for mental illness. The Mental Welfare Officer for the district works from the Health Area Office, Launceston.

II Education Department. As local education authority, the County Council is responsible for the School Health Service, which provides the following :-

Periodic Medical Inspection of pupils  
Cleanliness Surveys of pupils  
Dental Inspection and treatment of pupils  
Ascertainment of handicapped pupils in need of special education  
Treatment Clinic, Health Clinic, Launceston :-  
Dental Clinic by appointment.  
Speech Therapy, by appointment.  
Child Guidance Clinic, twice monthly at Launceston Clinic.

III Welfare Department. This service is concerned with the welfare of the aged, and with that of various categories of handicapped persons. It is concerned also with the provision of temporary accommodation in certain circumstances for persons in urgent need thereof. The Welfare Officer for the district works from the Health Area Office, Launceston.

#### Hospital Services.

The South Western Regional Hospital Board is the hospital authority for the area.

Launceston Hospital provides in-patient and out-patient facilities in the district. Patients are referred also to hospitals in Plymouth and elsewhere. Cases of infectious disease are admitted to the Scott Isolation Hospital, Plymouth, and tuberculosis patients to Didworthy and Tehidy Sanatoria. Mental hospital accommodation is provided by St. Lawrence's Hospital and Laninval House, Bodmin and Moorfields Hospital, Ivybridge, Devon.

An Orthopaedic Clinic is held weekly at the Health Clinic, Launceston, and a Physiotherapy Clinic at Tavistock Hospital. The Chest Clinic is held at Launceston Hospital.

An Ophthalmic Clinic for school and pre-school children is held periodically at the Launceston Health Clinic. A specialist Ante-natal clinic is held in Launceston each week.

Laboratory Facilities.

These are provided by the Public Health Laboratory, Plymouth, to which specimens for bacteriological examination are sent.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

WATER SUPPLIES

The provision of water supplies to the Borough remains the responsibility of the East Cornwall Water Board. The water is acid in character and is from an upland surface source at Bray Down on Bodmin Moor. The gathering ground is very sparsely populated and, except for periods during the summer when moorland ponies driven by thirst to the partially dried up streams enter the collection area, contamination by humans or animals is unlikely. The water has a pH varying from 5 to 5.5. This causes considerable corrosion and deposit in the trunk main and scraping by water ferret is carried out at intervals. The water is soft having a total hardness equivalent to calcium carbonate of 20 p.p.m. and is, therefore, very suitable for washing and cooking. The average daily consumption of water throughout the year has been 210,000 gallons. It was necessary in order to maintain the supply, to impose restrictions on the use of garden hoses and the washing of vehicles during June, July and August. This was a precautionary measure which due to the amount of rainfall was possibly hardly justified by fact. The booster pump at Trelawney Farm, Altarnun, which was installed the previous year was used from time to time to augment the Borough supply by approximately 50,000 gallons per day.

The raw water at the Windmill Reservoir is treated by chlorine and ammonia to give a residual dose of 0.2 p.p.m. of each. In addition, silicate of soda is added in order to counteract the tendency to plumbo-solvency.

The following proposals were approved during the year for extensions of the water service. (1) A proposed extension to the Stourscombe area. (2) A proposed new main from Windmill to Chapple and (3) The renewal of the main from Chapple Junction to Pennygillam in order to serve the projected Statham Estate.

During the year, a one inch service was renewed to St. Leonards Sewage Works. From the end of December, 1962 to the middle of March, 1963, an exceptionally cold spell posed many problems for the water undertaking generally. Service pipes within the Borough were found to be frozen at depths as great as twenty-two inches, and some four inch mains froze at depths down to fourteen inches. Leaks occurred through burst pipes at many points, and on the 22nd February the leaks were found to be overcoming the supply of water available. In order to conserve supply, water was turned off for stated periods during the night. The position throughout the Borough became so acute that the East Cornwall Water Board were approached for assistance in providing stand pipes at strategic points. This request was acceded to, and in the second week of January, stand pipes were fixed for stated periods at strategic points throughout the Borough. This eased the burden of householders who found themselves at long distances from an unfrozen water supply. Electric defreezing was brought into operation in the second week of February at premises where all other methods of defreezing had failed.



Normal supply was resumed on the 18th March. During this period the CINTEL detection apparatus of the Public Health Department was used by both the local officials of the East Cornwall Water Board and the Borough Officers to trace underground pipes, which in fact it did successfully.

#### SAMPLING

Reports received from the East Cornwall Water Board indicate that two chemical samples were taken from the treated water at Windmill Reservoir and these were also examined bacteriologically. Both samples were free from coliform organisms and the chemical report indicated that the water was from the aspect of chemical analysis pure and wholesome in character and suitable for drinking and domestic uses. Three samples taken by the East Cornwall Water Board from distribution system in May, July and September were reported as free from coliform organisms. Of twenty-three samples taken from the raw head works at Bray Down for bacteriological examination, only one was free from all coliform organisms. Nine samples contained no coliform organisms of type 1 (faecal). Fourteen of the samples contained differing counts of coliform organisms type 1 (faecal), the largest counts being in May, June and August.

Eight samples of drinking water were taken from the distribution system by the Local Authority, and all were reported as free from coliform organisms, illustrating the efficiency of chlorination carried out at Windmill Reservoir.

Two samples of drinking water were taken from a domestic well and no faecal type organisms were found. Two samples of water were taken from a deep bore supplying the local Abattoir. One of these samples showed a small count of B.Coli.type 1 (faecal). Sampling since has given a negative count.

Out of a total of 1,520 dwellings with a population of 4,510 persons, 1477 dwellings and 4,477 persons are supplied with water from public water mains. No standpipes are used in the Borough.

#### SWIMMING BATHS

The swimming bath at the Coronation Park is the open air type, containing approximately 100,000 gallons of water and is filled from the Borough supply in the early part of the year. The bath is equipped with an automatic chlorination dosing plant, and is further treated by a circulating filter, sulphate of alumina being added as a coagulant. Four samples were taken monthly during the bathing period and no coliform organisms were reported, the standard being thus equal to drinking water.

#### SEWERAGE

Launceston is largely served by the separate or dual system of sewerage, that is to say, rain or surface water drainage is kept separate from soil and waste drainage, and the two are conveyed by separate sewers to separate outfalls, surface water to the rivers and soil water to the

disposal works. At present 158 dwellings are not connected to the main sewerage system, as the very hilly nature of the area has made sewerage a major problem. Of the unsewered properties, 151 are served by septic tanks, one by Elsan W.C. and six by bucket latrines. Investigations are still being continued on the main foul sewerage system in an effort to eliminate the entry of surface water which is causing surcharging of these sewers.

Scarne Sewage Works, which was built during the war by the Army Authorities, was reconstructed during 1959 and came into use early in 1960. Investigations are being carried out by consultants into the deleterious effect of trade wastes which are passing to this sewage works and which, in consequence, give standards of effluent below that required by the Royal Commission. Steps are being taken to effect a reduction in the strength of a strong farm type waste entering this Works.

St. Leonards Sewage Works commenced functioning in April, 1963 and samples were taken to check the progress of the maturation of the filters and other aspects of the purification system as directed by the consultants.

#### DISINFECTION

Current and terminal disinfection by means of gaseous and liquid disinfectants is carried out when infectious disease is notified.

#### DISINFESTATION

Disinfestation of premises is carried out when required. Protective spraying against cluster fly in roof spaces of houses known to be frequented has again given good results. One premises was fumigated for infestation by fleas during 1963 following the decease of its occupier.

#### PUBLIC CLEANSING

Bi-weekly collections are made of household refuse and weekly collections made of refuse and paper from trade premises. It has not been possible to dispose of any waste paper during the year.

#### PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

During 1963 washing facilities, including running hot and cold water were installed at the Market Street Public Conveniences. Relatively little damage to installations has been done by the public at this convenience as compared with the westgate Street Public Conveniences where considerable vandalism has occurred.

RODENT CONTROL

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

	Type of Property				
	Non-Agricultural				Agricultural
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses Including Council	All Other Including Business Premises	Totals of Cols.(1),(2) and (3)	
No. of Properties in Local Authority District	9	1520	605	2134	34
Properties Inspected following Notification	1	16	6	23	-
Infestation of Properties by :-					
COMMON RAT Major	-	-	-	-	-
Minor	1	13	3	17	-
SHIP RAT Major	-	-	-	-	-
Minor	-	-	-	-	-
HOUSE MOUSE Major	-	-	-	-	-
Minor	-	3	3	6	-
Properties Inspected in course of Survey under the Act :-	4	38	86	128	6
No. of such Properties found to be infested by:-					
COMMON RAT Major	-	-	-	-	-
Minor	1	4	4	9	-
SHIP RAT Major	-	-	-	-	-
Minor	-	-	-	-	-
HOUSE MOUSE Major	-	-	-	-	-
Minor	1	2	-	3	-
Properties otherwise inspected (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose).	-	-	-	-	-
No. of Infested Properties	3	22	10	35	1
No. of Block Control Schemes carried out	N I L				

POISONS USED :- Warfarin 10 lbs. 8 ozs. Arsenic 1 oz. Zinc Phosphide 12 ozs.



HOUSING

1. Estimated population	...	...	...	...	4510
2. (a) Total number of permanent houses at 31st December, 1963	...	...	...	...	1520
(b) Total number of permanent houses owned by local authority at 31st December, 1963	...				288
3. (a) New Houses erected -					
(i) by local authority	...	...	...	...	-
(ii) by private enterprise	...	...	...		9
(b) Number of applicants on housing list at the end of the year	...	...	...	...	143
4. Number of houses specially provided for, and occupied by, people of pensionable age -					
(a) Receiving contribution from County Council for Welfare Services	...	...	...	...	Nil
(b) Other houses	...	...	...	...	Nil
5. Houses demolished -					
(a) in clearance areas -					
(i) Houses unfit for human habitation	...				7
(ii) Houses included by reason of bad arrangement, etc.	...	...	...	...	2
(iii) Houses on land acquired under Section 43(2) Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	...	1
(b) not in clearance areas -					
(i) As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 16 or Section 17(1) Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	...	2
(ii) Local authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health					1
(iii) Houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under local Acts					Nil
(iv) Unfit houses included in unfitness orders					Nil

6. Unfit houses closed -

(a) Under Section 16 (4), 17(1) and 35(1), Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	...	2
(b) Under Section 17(3) and 26, Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	...	Nil
(c) Parts of buildings closed under Section 18, Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	...	Nil

7. Unfit houses made fit and houses in which defects were remedied -

					<u>By Owner</u>	<u>By Local Authority</u>
(a) after informal action by local authority	...	...	...	13	-	-
(b) after formal notice under -						
(i) Public Health Acts	...	...	...	-	-	-
(ii) Sections 9 and 16 Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	-	-	-
(c) under Section 24, Housing Act, 1957	...			-	-	-

8. Unfit houses in temporary use (Housing Act, 1957) -

(a) Retained for temporary accommodation -					
(i) under Section 48	...	...	...		Nil
(ii) under Section 17(2)	...	...	...		Nil
(iii) under Section 46	...	...	...		Nil
(b) Licensed for temporary occupation under Section 34 or 53	...	...	...		Nil

9. Purchase of houses by agreement -

Houses in clearance area other than those included  
in confirmed clearance orders or compulsory  
purchase orders, purchased during the year 4

10. Housing Acts 1949 - 1959

Improvement Grants -

(a) Discretionary -

Number of applications received - dwellings	...	...	...	Nil
Number of applications approved - dwellings	...	...	...	Nil
Total approved expenditure	...	...	...	Nil
Total amount of grants made	...	...	...	Nil

(b) Standard -

Number of applications received - dwellings	...	...	...	17
Number of applications approved - dwellings	...	...	...	15
Total approved expenditure	...	...	...	£2280 (Max: grant permitted)
Total amount of grants made	...	...	...	£933

Note - 8 grants approved to 31st December, 1963 were unpaid at that date. Number of applications for standard grants to 31st December, 1963 total 45. Two applications for grant were withdrawn after approval.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

### (i) Classified Number of Food Premises in the Area

<u>Type of Premises</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Visits</u>	<u>Defects Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>
Butchers	11	29	2	2
Small Goods Factories	2	14	-	-
Bakehouses	1	2	-	-
Bakers' Shops	3	14	1	1
Cafes and Hotels	11	33	4	4
Dairies	5	16	-	-
Egg Packing Stations	1	3	-	-
Fish and Chip Shops	2	14	1	1
Greengrocers	5	6	1	1
Grocers	15	43	1	1
Poulterers	3	9	-	-
Slaughterhouses	2	260	-	-
School Meals Kitchens	4	4	-	-
Hospital Kitchens	2	4	-	-
Fresh Fish Shops	1	4	-	-

### (ii) Classified Number of Food Premises Registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 or under Local Acts, and the number of Dairies registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949 to 1959.

Premises registered for Storage and Sale of Ice Cream	27
Premises registered for the Sale of Fish and Chips	2
Premises registered for Sausage Manufacturing, etc.	7
Premises registered as Dairies	5

### (iii) Inspection of Registered Food Premises

The following inspections of registered food premises were carried out:-

<u>Premises</u>	<u>Number of Inspections</u>
Fish and Chip Shops	8
Sausage Making Establishments, etc.	34
Ice Cream Premises	32
Dairies	16

Nine informal notices were served for minor contraventions of the Food Hygiene Regulations.

### Contamination of Foodstuff

The Council took legal proceedings in the case of a rusty nail and a piece of metal which was found on two separate dates in sliced bread intended for the consumption of patients at a local hospital. The bread was manufactured by a Plymouth firm. Defendants pleaded guilty and were fined £5 in each case and ordered to pay five guineas costs.



(iv) Educational Activities

Posters and Leaflets supplied by the Central Office of information were issued to establishments from time to time and advice was given wherever possible.

(v) Condemned Food

Unsound or diseased meat is sent to two processing plants, one is situated at Davidstow and the other at Southampton, where it is sterilised and manufactured into fertiliser and other products. Condemned canned foods are dealt with by incineration at the Council's Refuse Tip. The Meat (Staining and Sterilisation) Regulations, 1960, require all butchers' meat and imported meat which is unfit for human consumption to be sterilised, and all knacker meat to be stained and sterilised before entering the chain of distribution. A warning was given to one processor for a contravention of these regulations, and a written undertaking was received from him laying down special arrangements which he had introduced in order to comply with these regulations in the future.

(vi) Special Examination of Large Food Consignments

No large consignment of food has necessitated special examination or large scale condemnation. A complaint was received concerning a jar of Cockles which gave the appearance of unsoundness. These were submitted to the Public Analyst for examination and were reported on as satisfactory.

(vii) Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations 1947 - 1952

No ice cream is produced in the Borough of Launceston. Thirty-one samples of ice cream, all of the hot mix type, were submitted for bacteriological examination during the year. Twenty-nine samples were classified as Provisional Grade 1, two as Provisional Grade 2 and none as Provisional Grade 4. It is desirable that 80% of samples should be classified in Grades 1 and 2, not more than 20% in Grade 3, and none should fall into Grade 4. The results obtained will be seen to be satisfactory. No soft ice cream extruding machines have yet been introduced in the Borough.

(viii) Food Hygiene Regulations 1955 - 1956

Frequent inspections of all food establishments in the Borough were carried out during the year.

(ix) Milk and Cream

There are five registered dairies in the Borough. Two of these retail milk and the remaining three are registered in order that they may sell loose cream.

Milk (Special Designations) Regulations 1960

The registration of distributors of milk is now carried out by the County Council. The Borough of Launceston is now a designated area, that is to say only Tuberculin tested, Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk may be sold.

Information was received from the County Public Health Officer that two samples of Tuberculin tested milk and twenty samples of Pasteurised Milk were taken during the year and were reported on as satisfactory.

The following samples of milk were taken by this Department during the year :-

Tuberculin Tested

Passed Methylene  
Blue Test

6

Failed Methylene  
Blue Test

-

Passed Biological Test  
(i.e. for T.B.)

3

Failed Biological Test

-

Pasteurised

Fifteen samples of Pasteurised Milk all passed the Methylene Blue and Phosphatase tests

(x) Unsound Food

Sixteen visits were made in order to condemn unsound foodstuffs.

(xi) Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection

In order to implement the Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963 the Council appointed two additional Public Health Inspectors to carry out these special duties which began on the 1st October, 1963.

There was an increase of 6,714 in the number of animals slaughtered in 1963 indicating a rise of 7.5% over the 1962 figure and representing a total kill of 95,594 animals made up as follows :-

Bovines	7134	increased by 1660	or 30.3%
Calves	3560	decreased by 1070	or 23.1%
Sheep	59152	decreased by 2081	or 3.3%
Pigs	<u>25748</u>	increased by <u>8205</u>	or 46.8%
	<u>95594</u>	increased by <u>6714</u>	or 7.5%

### Cysticercus Bovis

There were eleven cases of infestation by *Cysticercus Bovis* detected during 1963, as against ten in 1962. This parasite, developmental stage of the human tapeworm, was found in five steers, five heifers and one cow. This gives an incidence of 0.15% representing a decrease of 0.03% over the 1962 figure of 0.18%.

Affected carcasses are totally condemned if the condition is generalised, otherwise they are treated by three weeks refrigeration at a temperature not exceeding 20 degrees Fahrenheit. In all cases detected during the year, the lesion was in the head or the heart, and no cysts were found in the carcasses. The organ or part affected is always condemned.

The carcass of one animal was sent to Launceston from another area for refrigeration following the finding in it of localised *Cysticercosis Bovis*. Careful supervision was maintained to ensure that the required detention period was observed.

### Tuberculosis

The continued success of the Tuberculosis (Cornwall and West Devon) Eradication Area Order, 1959, in reducing bovine tuberculosis can be seen from the fact that, whilst in 1958 there were 473 cases of bovine tuberculosis, this figure had fallen to 7 cases in 1962 and to 2 cases in 1963. In the two cases in question, only relatively minor lesions were found and no total condemnation of carcasses was carried out. The incidence of tuberculosis in pigs had increased slightly from 0.87% in 1962 to 1.28% in 1963. This is probably accounted for by the much more detailed inspection made obligatory by the introduction of the Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963, and the employment of sufficient staff to carry out these inspections.

### Slaughtering Licences

Twenty-nine licences to slaughter animals were granted during the year.

### Diseases of Animal Act

No diseases notifiable under the Diseases of Animals Act occurred during the year.

For details of animals inspected and condemned see Table IV.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT 1961

Classified List of Registered Factories at 31.12.63.

<u>Nature of Business</u>	<u>Power</u>	<u>Non-Power</u>	<u>Building Operations</u> <u>Electrical Stations</u> <u>Institutions, etc.</u>
Agricultural Implement Repairs	3	-	
Brush Making	1	-	
Cabinet Making	1	-	
Dresses and Millinery	-	2	
Egg Grading and Packing	1	-	
Electrical and Radio Repairs	2	-	
Gas Holder	1	-	
Hide Salting and Dressing	-	1	
Joinery	6	1	
Laundry	2	-	
Letter Press Printing	2	-	
Motor Body Painting	1	-	
Motor Body Builders	1	-	
Motor Vehicle Repairs	14	-	
Provender	1	-	
Photographer	1	-	
Poultry Slaughterhouses	3	-	
Radio Repairs	1	-	
Rope Splicing	-	1	
Sawmills	1	-	
Seed Dressing	1	-	
Sausage Manufacturers	3	-	
Television Repairs	1	-	
Upholstery	1	-	
Watch and Clock Repairs	2	-	
Wool Grading	1	-	
Electrical Stations			1
Building Operations			6
Slaughterhouses			1
<hr/>			
	51	5	8
<hr/>			

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Acts, 1961 are attached as an appendix to this report in accordance with Circular 1/60 of the Ministry of Health.



PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The infectious diseases which are statutorily notifiable to the Medical Officer of Health are the following :- Smallpox, cholera, diphtheria, membranous croup, erysipelas, scarlet fever, typhus fever, typhoid fever, paratyphoid fever, relapsing fever, plague, ophthalmia neonatorum, acute primary pneumonia, acute influenzal pneumonia, whooping cough, measles, acute encephalitis, meningococcal infection, anthrax, food poisoning, poliomyelitis, tuberculosis, malaria, dysentery and puerperal pyrexia.

The monthly incidence of infectious disease is shown in Table III.

Smallpox. No case was notified during the year, in the course of which 20 primary vaccinations and 9 re-vaccinations were carried out.

This total of primary vaccinations and re-vaccinations is in marked contrast to the figures for 1962, when 235 primary and 216 re-vaccinations were carried out. The occurrence of smallpox outbreaks in England and Wales during 1962 was a powerful stimulus to vaccination, but the public memory, always short, showed a remarkably rapid lapse in this respect when the outbreaks were over.

With regard to primary infant vaccinations, however, the number may have been affected by the new practice, advised by the Ministry of Health, of performing this vaccination between the age of one and two years, and not in the first few months of life as was formerly the case.

Diphtheria. No case of diphtheria was notified during the year.

Seventy-four children received a complete course of immunisation against diphtheria during the year, the triple antigen against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus being used in almost all cases.

Measles. Thirty-five cases were notified during the year.

Whooping Cough. No cases of whooping cough were notified during the year.

Poliomyelitis. No case of this infection was notified during the year.

During the year, 464 persons received a complete course of oral vaccination. A large proportion of these were children of pre-school and school age, previously vaccinated by injection, who took advantage of a booster course of oral vaccination offered by the County Council to this especially susceptible age-group because of the enhanced protection conferred by the oral vaccine.

Acute Primary Pneumonia. Three cases of acute primary pneumonia, all adults, were notified during 1963.

Puerperal Pyrexia. This is defined as any feverish condition occurring in a woman in whom a temperature of 100.4° or more has occurred within fourteen days after childbirth or miscarriage. One case was notified during the year.

Food Poisoning. No cases were notified during the year.

Tuberculosis.

	<u>Males</u>		<u>Females</u>	
	<u>Pul.</u>	<u>Non.Pul.</u>	<u>Pul.</u>	<u>Non.Pul.</u>
Cases on Register				
31.12.62	13	4	15	3
No. of cases notified				
during year	1	-	1	-
Cases restored	-	-	-	-
Inward Transfers	-	-	-	-
Cases Removed	5	-	1	-
<hr/>				
Total on Register				
31.12.63	9	4	15	3
<hr/>				

No action was found to be necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, in connection with persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, which deals with the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

The Regional Hospital Board is responsible for treatment of Tuberculosis patients and the County Council for the prevention of spread of the disease and after-care of the patient.

Out-patients and contacts are seen by the Chest Physician (Dr. Mellor) at the Chest Clinic at Launceston Hospital. The County Council Tuberculosis Health Visitor attends the Clinic, follows up the patients in their homes, traces contacts and sources of infection and thus acting as a most valuable and essential "liaison officer" between the curative and preventive services, bridges a most alarming administrative gap. All susceptible contacts of known cases in the Borough are offered B.C.G. vaccination and the majority avail themselves of this method of protection.

The County Council's scheme for B.C.G. vaccination of susceptible Secondary School children was continued during the year, again with an excellent response.

OTHER DISEASES.

Cancer of the Lung. During 1963, the deaths of two males and one female from cancer of the lung were recorded, out of a total of 12 cancer deaths. Since 1949, there have been 73 male and 91 female deaths from all forms of cancer. Of these, twelve male and seven female deaths have been due to cancer of the lung.

At the beginning of the present year, the U.S. Public Health Service published its report on smoking and health. This substantially agrees with the conclusions of reports previously published in this country. The report concludes that the situation is "a health hazard of sufficient importance in the United States to warrant appropriate remedial action." This statement applies with equal force to the position in this country. The issue of anti-smoking posters and leaflets, no matter how effective they may be in themselves, is of trifling preventive value in the face of the expert and subtle use of modern advertising on television and in the press by the tobacco manufacturers. The extensive employment of the same media, with at least equal skill and subtlety, is surely the minimum requirement in achieving effective anti-smoking propaganda.



TABLE I

TUBERCULOSIS

Age and Sex Distribution of Cases and Deaths - 1963

<u>Age Groups</u>	<u>NEW CASES</u>				<u>DEATHS</u>			
	<u>Pul.</u>		<u>Other</u>		<u>Pul.</u>		<u>Other</u>	
	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>
0 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 -	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Age unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

TABLE II

VITAL STATISTICS

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>POPULATION (Estimated)</u>	<u>BIRTHS</u>		<u>DEATHS</u>			
		<u>Number</u>	<u>Crude Rate</u>	<u>Under 1 year</u>		<u>All ages</u>	
				<u>Number</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Rate</u>
1959	4680	57	12.18	3	52.63	72	15.38
1960	4670	63	13.49	1	15.87	73	15.63
1961	4420	64	14.479	1	15.62	82	18.55
1962	4510	68	15.077	1	14.70	77	17.073
1963	4510	62	17.96	-	-	81	17.96

TABLE III

Monthly Incidence of Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis)

	<u>Jan.</u>	<u>Feb.</u>	<u>Mar.</u>	<u>Apr.</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Aug.</u>	<u>Sept.</u>	<u>Oct.</u>	<u>Nov.</u>	<u>Dec.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Measles	-	-	1	-	1	1	5	27	-	-	-	-	35
Pneumonia	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	-	-	2	3	1	1	5	27	-	-	-	-	39

TABLE IV

MEAT INSPECTION

Carcases and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle excl. cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Horses
No. killed	5325	1809	3560	59152	25748	-
No. inspected	4517	1535	3205	51465	23050	-
<u>All disease except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis.</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	4	20	17	65	24	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	184	315	8	1420	651	-
% of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticercosis	4.16%	21.8%	0.7803	2.88%	2.929%	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1	2	-	-	297	-
% of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	0.022%	0.13%	-	-	1.28%	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	10	1	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	10	1	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unfit meat rejected	19 Tons	5 Cwts	1 Qr.	25 lbs.		-

TABLE V.

NUISANCES AND DEFECTS REMEDIED DURING THE YEAR

	<u>INFORMAL NOTICES SERVED</u>	<u>COMPLIED WITH</u>
Defective Drainage	8	8
Defective Roofs	1	1
General Defects	11	11
Insanitary Conditions	5	5
Obstructed Drainage	4	4
Food Hygiene Regulations	10	10
Noise Abatement Act	1	1
Meat Staining and Sterilizing Regulations	1	1
Total Number of Complaints Received	57	
Total Number of visits paid	1229	

APPENDIX

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the  
Factories Act, 1961.

Part 1 of the Act

1 - INSPECTIONS for purposes of provision as to health

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	5	5	-	-
(ii) Factories not inclu- ded in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	51	23	2	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outwork- ers' premises)	8	9	2	-
Total	64	37	4	-

2 - Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (Section 1)	2	2	-	-	-
Overcrowding (Section 2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (Section 3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (Section 4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (Section 6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (Section 7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	1	1	-	-	-
TOTAL	4	4	-	-	-

PART VIII of the Act

OUTWORK

(Sections 110 and 111)

Section 110			Section 111		
No. of workers in August List required by Section 110(1)(c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of pro- secutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
N I L					







